

75 Fenner (E.L.)

ANNUAL ADDRESS
OF
EDWARD FENNER,
VICE-PRESIDENT,

WITH REMARKS

— BY —

CHARLES A. WHITNEY,
PRESIDENT,

CYRUS BUSSEY,

Chairman Executive Committee,

— AND —

ALBERT BALDWIN,

Chairman Finance Committee,

AT REGULAR MEETING OF THE
NEW ORLEANS AUXILIARY SANITARY ASSOCIATION,

NOVEMBER 23, 1880

NEW ORLEANS:
PRINTED AT THE NEW ORLEANS DEMOCRAT OFFICE, 62 CAMP STREET.
1880.



ADDRESS.

After the transaction of routine business Edward Fenner, Vice-President, delivered the following

ANNUAL ADDRESS:

Mr. Chairman—The thirty-first of March, 1879, will always be memorable in the annals of New Orleans as the day on which the Auxilliary Sanitary Association was organized at the great public meeting held at Odd Fellows' Hall.

The time was well chosen. The saddening impress of the direful epidemic of 1878 was manifest in the hearts of the people. The alarm engendered throughout the country has no parallel in the history of previous epidemics. New Orleans was branded far and wide as the prime cause of the wide-spread calamity.

The ready disposition of neighboring communities to blockade this city by barbarous shotgun quarantines, which effectually paralyzed business and rendered interstate communication almost impossible, showed but too plainly that, while the geographical position of New Orleans is most favorable to its increase in population, manufactures, commerce and wealth, if its good health and good name can be established, it is the reverse of favorable, should public neglect subject it to the ravages of yellow fever.

The gentlemen chiefly instrumental in giving form and motion to this association were actuated by the most patriotic motives—the *rehabilitation of this city*.

They realized the fact that the time had come when the people could be appealed to with success to give countenance and material aid in support of any well devised plans of sanitary improvement, to be undertaken by a committee of citizens and paid for by voluntary subscriptions.

The experience of the past had taught them that political corporations cannot be depended upon for that prompt and sustained

action which enables men trained in the severe school of business affairs to execute large undertakings with economy and dispatch.

The numerous examples which this city affords of great and costly works, undertaken without regard to the possibility of their ultimate completion, shows but too plainly that municipal governments, owing their existence to political machinations and intrigue, and compelled by force of circumstances to lavish the people's money on most unworthy partisans, are unable to cope with the requirements of our present rapidly increasing prosperity, and render it securely permanent.

The task assumed by this association was surrounded with innumerable and, apparently, almost insurmountable difficulties. The movement was novel, and the projectors untried; money was needed and the contributors must necessarily be numerous. The success attending your efforts to create a sustaining public opinion in favor of the radical reform proposed in your address to the people, issued the sixth of April, 1879, is evinced by the large number of your subscribers and the amount placed at your disposal.

Without the unswerving advocacy of the press, the exponent and guide of public opinion, and its generous publication of numerous and lengthy documents, supplemented by the eloquent appeals of the clergy, and the intelligent, indefatigable and most efficient exertions of our medical men, we do not hesitate to say that all your exertions to arouse the public mind to the necessity of immediate and radical sanitary reform would have been in vain.

The views of this association may be fitly illustrated by a quotation from the reply made by Lord Palmerston to the presbytery of Edinburgh, when they wrote to him to ask whether a national fast ought not to be appointed in consequence of the appearance of cholera.

His lordship gravely admonished the presbytery that the Maker of the universe had appointed certain laws of nature for the planet on which we live; and, that the weal or woe of mankind depends on the observance of those laws—one of them connecting health with the absence of those noxious exhalations which proceed from over crowded human beings, or from decomposing substances, whether animal or vegetable. He, therefore, recommended that the purification of towns and cities should be more strenuously carried on, and remarked that the causes and sources of contagion, if allowed to re-

main, will infallibly breed pestilence and be fruitful in death, in spite of all the prayers and fasting of a united but inactive people.

The enormous loss of life and values inflicted upon the country by the epidemic of 1878, not to speak of the boundless charity bestowed to alleviate local distress, has created an unwonted interest throughout the United States in measures of prevention.

The discussion of the American Public Health Association, composed of representative men from every State in the Union, on city sanitation and practical questions connected with the management of an actual or threatened outbreak of yellow fever, should be accepted by the people of New Orleans as conclusive evidence that our neighbors, near and far, will not permit us to remain indifferent to their wise suggestions.

Self-protection and the very natural desire to avoid a repetition of the loss to the country caused by the epidemic of 1878, which has been estimated by good authority at not less than \$175,000,000, gives them the right to demand a corresponding interest, and an unflinching determination on the part of our citizens to foster and promote the work plotted out by this association.

John H. Rauch, M.D., secretary of the Sanitary Council of the Mississippi Valley, states in his preface to the transactions of that organization, published in May, 1879: "Until the national government, through a national agency, wielding the power and supported by the authority of the nation, shall assume plenary control of questions affecting the public health, it can only be by the harmonious and conjoint action of the various local agencies, State and municipal, that we can hope to secure exemption from epidemic diseases." He adds: "The example of New Orleans and Memphis in pushing sanitary work by local voluntary subscriptions and effort is commended to other towns whose municipal authorities have neglected or are unable to make adequate appropriations for such work. The emergency is too imminent to allow of mincing matters; it must be met promptly and energetically."

These were the views entertained by the Sanitary Council of the Mississippi Valley in May, 1879.

The passage of the act constituting the National Board of Health superseded, as suggested by Dr Rauch, the "Sanitary Council." The "National Board" was designed to co-operate with State and local boards of health for the general welfare, to meet extraordinary de-

mands for material aid, to inspire confidence and hope in communities imperfectly provided with the means and appliances of protection and, through the prestige of national power, to allay excitement by relegating to responsible and intelligent agents the execution of rules and regulations designed to prevent undue interruption to commerce, while conferring the greatest protection to communities contiguous to infected places.

The voice of the people of this city or State, owing to circumstances and influences beyond their power to control, will be found impotent when directed against an institution created to substitute national powers for the comparatively weak and irresponsible action of voluntary State organizations.

Should public clamor, however, succeed in procuring the repeal of the act creating the National Board of Health, with all its power in time of need to contribute material aid, its predecessor, the Sanitary Council of the Mississippi Valley, without such power, will immediately take its place.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the executive committee, there can be no doubt as to the policy we must pursue.

Whatever the wisdom of this enlightened age has discovered as best calculated to preserve health and prevent the spread of disease, must be undertaken by this association.

In no other way can we lay the foundation deep and permanent on which to build the future greatness of this city.

The wealth and enterprise of Western cities, aided by our exaggerated reputation of ill health, had well nigh diverted from New Orleans the enormous trade which, in the days of steamboat supremacy, was tributary to her and made her one of the richest cities on the continent.

The advantages which the West has enjoyed for many years will henceforth be shared by New Orleans.

Already are we wedded, with bands of iron, to a vast domain, rapidly increasing in population and agricultural wealth.

Ere long the connection will be made still closer; but to derive the full benefit from these great undertakings without interruption, our citizens will readily perceive that they must lend a helping hand.

New Orleans must be placed *at once* in the front rank with those who pause not to consider the cost of any sanitary work intended to secure public health that public wealth may follow.

The task before you is not so difficult as many suppose. Go on as you have begun, "with a faith that knows no doubt," banish all thoughts of failure, invest whatever you can afford for a few years more, to be *promptly* and judiciously employed in permanent works, and the result will redound to the happiness and prosperity of yourselves and your children.

I do not propose in this address, except incidentally, to allude to the work that has already been accomplished by this association.

My chief desire will be attained if I succeed in interesting you, and through you the public at large, in many important undertakings which remain to be accomplished.

THE PRIVY SYSTEM.

The privy system of this city is defective and injurious to the last degree.

Our committee on construction and management of privies, after many experiments and careful and intelligent consideration of the whole subject, furnished your association with an able and exhaustive report.

This report states clearly and emphatically that sound principle and practice require the immediate removal of all human excreta ; that this can be successfully accomplished only by a complete and perfect system of sewers.

In the absence of such a system at present, and the possibility of the continuance of a privy system for an indefinite period, the committee lay down for the guidance of all concerned such principles as to location, size, impermeability, ventilation, inspection, cleaning and disinfection as would, if carried into execution, reduce all the hygienic evils of such a privy system to a minimum.

The practical difficulties in the way of investigating the construction of 40,000 or 50,000 privies, and compelling each proprietor to conform to corporate or State Board ordinances, at best but carelessly and feebly enforced, devolves upon your association the duty of considering a plan more in consonance with the spirit of the age.

The great and prosperous cities of the world have long since determined that underground sewerage is a sure remedy for the dangerous form of cumulative vaults.

The plan adopted at Memphis, of small pipes, frequently flushed, will avoid the danger of sewer gas, so often advanced by the opponents of sub-sewerage, and greatly reduce the cost of the system.

I anticipate the suggestion that this association is on record as having opposed sub-sewerage by stating that when the system was so ably advocated by the public press last spring, just at the time when it was contemplated to flush the perpendicular gutters, a work which, with or without sub-sewerage, is in this climate a prime necessity—we deemed it expedient to refrain from joining in the discussion, as premature and calculated to divert the public mind from a then possible improvement.

Now that the flushing system is a fact accomplished, and its beneficial effect has been realized, we do not apprehend the slightest difficulty in completing the system the coming winter, down to the lower limits of the city.

Therefore, there is no objection henceforth to a free discussion of the important question of sub-sewerage and its accompaniment, sub-drainage. On the contrary, we should invite and promote discussion.

FILLING IN AND DRAINAGE OF LOTS.

The providing of sewers and a bountiful supply of water, as suggested, will remedy some of the most depressing and noxious influences which affect health and life in New Orleans.

There remains another sanitary feat to be accomplished, equal in importance and advantage to immediate removal of excreta and unlimited supply of water, viz: The complete filling and drainage of all lots occupied by dwellings, or in the vicinity of habitations, and the securing of absolute dryness, both of the soil and air under dwelling houses, by suitable methods of filling lots, proper height of lower floor above the soil, and intelligent construction and arrangement of supporting pillars and walls to secure good ventilation and consequent free movement of air beneath such lower floor.

It is not enough that New Orleans be rendered impregnable to yellow fever epidemics. The dead from preventable local causes vastly outnumber the slain by yellow fever. That the annual death rate of New Orleans is high, compared with that of the large cities of the country, is universally known.

The aim and steady effort of this association should be to make the health and life of every man and his family as certain here as in any large city. To so elevate the sanitary condition that he can live here all the year through for years in succession—not in the vigor that some receive from cold climates, but with the knowledge that his prospects for health and life are as good in New Orleans as anywhere else.

The extraordinary fact already laid before the association by Dr. White, our Sanitary Director, in his report of October 19, 1879, of a population of one thousand persons, in the most malarious district in the city, giving in one year, 1874, an annual death rate of but six, as against the death rate of 32.73 for the city as a whole, must always be kept in view for instruction and encouragement—a prophecy of good times to come.

Gentlemen, we must bring the annual death rate of New Orleans to fifteen, or even less than fifteen per thousand per annum.

WATER SUPPLY.

The influence of this association can be beneficially exerted to induce the introduction of the fresh water of the Mississippi river into every dwelling in the city through underground pipes, thus avoiding the contamination of water used for domestic purposes by impure air and the excrement of fowls.

The New Orleans Waterworks Company can now supply water in abundance to the second or third story of any building.

An inexpensive filter will render it almost absolutely pure and perfectly clear.

Before the abatement of these twin nuisances, the fifteen acres of filthy fever holes along the levee and the abominable cordon of decomposing garbage behind the city, who will undertake to assert that we have not imbibed a liberal share of their damaging exhalations, condensed by the water of our cisterns?

Prof. Hoffman states that "such is the capacity of water that 1000 gallons will dissolve 25 gallons of nitrogen. 1000 gallons of carbonic acid, 50,000 gallons of ammonia—the very gas which escapes so largely from privies and the filth of every dirty town, carrying with it matters in a high state of putrescency."

In this city the cisterns which usually furnish most of our drinking and cooking water are commonly placed in close proximity, in our

narrow yards, with the privy, bituminous coal, and all kitchen and house refuse.

Dr. Gautier, a French physician, states:

"The presence of organic matter in water has been considered one of the principal causes of any injurious qualities it may possess: to its presence may be attributed the development of such diseases as diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid fever, etc.

Let us therefore cease not to plead for water pure and simple.

Rest assured the condition of the public health is closely identified with the quality of water in public use.

The energy and enterprise of the Waterworks Company should, and we believe it will, so greatly increase the demands for their convenient and never failing supply of water as to enable the company to erect filtering works.

When that is done not even New York will excel New Orleans in the enjoyment of an inexhaustible supply of clear, pure water—in our semi-tropical climate an inestimable hygienic blessing.

The Waterworks Company have increased their pumping capacity six million gallons, making a total of twenty-seven million gallons in twenty-four hours.

They have laid nearly eight miles of new pipe, three miles of which are thirty-six, thirty and twenty-inch mains.

The average head of water above Canal street before these improvements were made, was about fifteen feet, and below Canal street none to be relied upon, except at night, and then it never reached fifteen feet.

The head of water will average sixty feet above Canal street, and forty feet below, but after the thirty-inch main is completed to Esplanade street, the head will be an average of sixty feet all over the city, which will be increased if occasion requires it.

Now that the Waterworks Company are about to recommence the laying of mains, we hope they will follow the suggestion of Dr. White, our sanitary director, and place hydrants in the middle of blocks and not at the corners, thus greatly facilitating the flushing of the lateral gutters.

Before the advent of another summer we have no doubt every uninterrupted perpendicular gutter in the city will be kept constant-

ly purified by the water issuing from our pumping engines. The lateral gutters, however, demand our most thoughtful attention.

Before we can consider our work in this direction accomplished, provision must be made to flush the lateral gutters at least once in every twenty-four hours; oftener would be very desirable.

Therefore we must earnestly solicit the aid of the Waterworks Company, by complying, if they can do so, with the suggestion of Dr. White.

REFORMATION OF THE DRAINAGE CANALS.

The flushing committee have been untiring in their efforts throughout the past summer to abate, in part at least, the noxious condition of the drainage canals.

The progress they have made and the impediments encountered have been presented to your honorable committee in the report of Mr. W. H. Newton, civil engineer.

With the aid of Mr. Newton's mud scourer, a most ingenious and efficient contrivance, he has successfully reduced the foul deposit an accumulation of many years, quite two feet in the Toulouse and Broad street canals, at a trifling cost to this association.

An achievement pronounced in high municipal circles "impracticable."

Had the small cost at which a great portion of this work was done been known when this erroneous prophesy was made their incredulity would certainly have had a better foundation.

To those familiar with the customary mode of conducting public work it cannot have been matter for surprise that it was found "impracticable" to complete the undertaking commenced in 1859 to flush the gutters of this city, although our good citizens did actually pay the sum of \$116,625 22, while nothing exists at this day to indicate that the work was ever commenced, except a length of 3000 feet of iron pipe, now in the possession of the Waterworks Company, which cost to lay \$21,000.

The question presented to you in behalf of the property owners, business men, taxpayers, whose vital interests are all concerned, is one of no little importance—how and by whom shall the dirty ditches, called draining canals, be cleaned and the entire system improved?

The five months' experience of your flushing committee has made them perfectly familiar with the condition of these imperfectly constructed, totally neglected, but most important sanitary works.

Your committee do not hesitate to assume the responsibility of amending the condition of the entire system, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000, a sum so insignificant when contrasted with the vast benefit which will accrue to the health and comfort of our people and the value of adjacent property, that they believe an appropriation for that purpose by your finance committee is of the utmost importance.

The correction of this long-existing evil is an important part of our flushing system—it may prove in its ultimate results the most beneficial.

That years must elapse before our municipal authorities will be able to undertake the work is rendered quite evident from the reply made by his Honor Mayor Patton to the Taxpayers' Association, of date the twenty-third of October.

Basing his estimate on a ten-mill tax his honor shows "that the annual expenditures for premium bonds, schools, police, lighting the city extinguishing fires, criminal justice, insane asylums and charitable institutions are alone in excess of the revenues—\$266,000.

"Not a salary paid, not a dollar spent on drainage, paving or cleaning the streets, nothing spent for hygienic purposes, nothing for wharves and landings, nothing for removing garbage, repairing courts, markets and other public buildings.

I take occasion here to state that the criticisms on a *system*, which this address contains, are not intended to apply to the individual chiefs of our present municipal government, who have at all times acted in accord with your association, and aided your work to the extent of their ability.

They should not be blamed for evils which they are powerless to correct.

In my opinion an auxiliary association such as yours will be found necessary for several years.

A perfect sanitary condition of this city must be maintained or the railway by which you hope to increase your trade will prove, in the event of failure, but an additional pretext to erect barriers against it.

PUBLIC BATHING-HOUSES AND WASH-HOUSES.

This is a subject which should ere long engage the attention of this association. In a sanitary point of view the advantage which such establishments would confer is incalculable.

I quote from the admirable report of the Sanitary Commission of Massachusetts of 1850:

"Liverpool has the honor of originating the idea and of erecting the first institution, which was opened the twenty-eighth day of May, 1842.

"A second was erected in 1847.

"The statistics of these two establishments show that the public patronage has been annually increasing from their commencement and that during the year ending August 31, 1849, the number of baths taken was 104,691; the number of dozen clothes washed, 120,875; the receipts were £1230 4s 11d, and the expenses were £1392 17s, nearly but not quite equaling the expenditure; but so well satisfied are the town council of the benefits conferred on the working classes by these establishments, that they have recently decided to erect six additional baths and wash-houses in different districts of the borough, at a cost of £25,000. They will contain two plunge baths, one forty-two by twenty-seven feet, and the other thirty-nine by twenty-seven feet; forty-nine dressing boxes, eighty-seven washing-halls, eight infected washing halls, ten first-class private baths and thirty-three second and third-class.

"At Manchester, England, in similar institutions there had been given in three years, 79,408 baths, 16,907 washers and 594,292 dozen articles washed. The receipts were £1227, expenses £1194, leaving a balance on hand for the three years £33."

When we reflect upon the indisputable fact that thousands of the tenements occupied by the laboring man and the poor are inadequately supplied with water, and that of the worst quality, taken from decaying cisterns seldom if ever cleaned, how can we expect, so long as this condition lasts, to attain to a maximum of public health?

The poor can neither properly cleanse their bodies, cook their food nor wash their clothes.

If the introduction of water from the waterworks could be made compulsory on all property-owners the present limited supply of water would be remedied; but even then there is a consideration

growing out of a system peculiar to New Orleans, which would not be affected.

I allude to the almost universal custom of sending soiled clothes out of your houses to be washed, where and under what circumstances we seldom take the trouble to inquire.

I regret that space will not permit me to quote in full a very able communication on the subject of "clothes-washing," read before the Ladies' Sanitary Association of New Orleans the sixth of January, 1880. It should be printed in pamphlet form and sent to every house. A single publication in a daily journal is too evanescent for such a valuable paper.

Draining the swamps between the city and lake, the proper treatment of the lateral gutters, the abatement of a very serious nuisance under the docks, I merely alluded to as subjects which I hope will be considered and some action taken by this committee before that unfortunate day arrives, if it ever does, when the sanitary association shall cease to exist.

You will discover when the American Public Health Association hold their meeting in this city, on the seventh of December next, that this association, the work it has done, and the improvements it proposes to advocate and advance, are perfectly well known to and appreciated by every member of that enlightened body.

It will be greatly to the advantage of this city, therefore, that we can point to some works of vast sanitary importance executed under your auspices during your brief existence.

We cannot claim for these works originality of invention; they have been persistently and eloquently recommended long years ago, as may be discovered by reference to the annual reports of the Board of Health and Sanitary Commissions, publications of great interest and value, to be found in the libraries of literary men and the dusty garret of the City Hall.

You have, however, the imperishable honor, after years of apathy and municipal neglect, of putting in practice these wise suggestions.

Judging, therefore, of the future by the past, I record my opinion that the only hope of regenerating this city is centered in the Citizens' Sanitary Association.

The good health which New Orleans has enjoyed for the past two years, supplemented by the great system of railroads completed and in progress, has entirely changed the commercial outlook.

We no longer speak of "hard times," nor bemoan the loss of trade, resulting from a want of confidence in our sanitary condition, and the exclusive enjoyment by the great West of railway connection with our next-door neighbor, Texas.

With proper energy on our part, that imperial State—of enormous area, fertile soil, but lack of seaports—must contribute to this highly favored city a wealth of commerce, which, ere many years have passed, will elevate her to rank with the largest and wealthiest cities of the world.

The first results of the prosperity I predict have been realized, and are still in progress everywhere within the city limits.

For the past two summers our trade has been large and uninterrupted—"spot trade," in commercial parlance, constituting no inconsiderable portion.

The enormous increase in the movement of grain, which could not have been handled in a city blasted by disease; due, as many suppose to a filthy condition;

The demolition of stores at no time vacant, and always fetching a remunerative rental, to give place for more modern and convenient structures;

The steady employment of our industrious mechanics and laboring men throughout the summer, for years previously compelled to pass months of their time in enforced idleness;

The solvency of our merchants, their hopeful tone, the determination of the many thousand subscribing members of this association—from the widows' mite of ten cents (as our books will show) to the thousands of the millionaire—evinced the firm resolve of our population to make good the prediction uttered in this hall in November last, that this "city can be made, by the honest efforts of her own people, a place for business every month in the year."

If you concur in the statements I have made, and attribute, as I do, with a faith unmingled with doubt, that our exemption from yellow fever in the summer of 1879, when Memphis was again scourged, to the active and efficient sanitary measures taken by your committee and our State Board of Health, then I say stick to your

guns until the last remnant of our deadly foe is swept from the face of this fair city.

Such a victory, giving as its result prosperity and happiness, should animate you to renewed activity and an unalterable purpose to cease not from your labors until you have, with God's blessing, secured a continuance of our present healthful and prosperous condition.

In conclusion, permit me to quote from a speech made by Lord Morpeth in a debate in the House of Lords on a bill for promoting the public health:

"Let my countrymen condemn me as they may, only do not let them hold me—do not let them hold themselves absolved if they do not insist upon early and efficient legislation on this subject. No one's conscience, be they ministers of state, be they members of Parliament, be they members of corporations, or be they citizens of any class, ought to hold themselves harmless if in time coming they offer any obstructions or suffer obstructions to be offered to the immediate adoption of sanitary reform."

In like manner, gentlemen, I appeal to you, and through you to the public, not to offer any obstructions, nor suffer any obstructions to be offered, to the continuance of the sanitary reforms that may from time to time be suggested in this hall.

In the past we have lost much valuable time and added considerably to the costs of our work by reason of the tardiness with which subscriptions were made.

There is much to be done this winter; we must begin early.

Good health and a kind Providence have prospered you greatly the past summer; invest once more a portion of your gains thus derived and you will deserve a continuance of that high degree of welfare which is alone attributable to those sources.

At the conclusion of the reading of the report

C. A. WHITNEY, PRESIDENT,

took the floor, and said:

Gentlemen—I have listened earnestly to every word of the address of our vice-president. Any comment on it would serve, I am sure, only to weaken its effect. I add my voice to what has been said simply because my silence might be misconstrued. My motive in speaking now is solely for the purpose of heartily indorsing all that the address recommends. The facts stated show most conclusively

that the work done by this association, aided by the liberality of the people, has been an effective agent in the preservation of the health of the city; and they further show that, without health our commerce must languish and the city again be relegated to its former condition of inertness and stagnation.

We are ready to continue the work if our people will supply the means—with but moderate assistance we believe it to be possible to avert the recurrence of epidemics; without aid, in the present depleted condition of the city treasury, rendering relief from that quarter impossible, we candidly say we see little to encourage us. This matter is now in the hands of this community. It is for them to decide whether or not the good work shall go on. We have, we believe, done our part, we ask the public to do theirs. We will not believe they will be blind to their own interest and deaf to the will of humanity.

If adequate relief be not afforded by voluntary contributions I may, on some future occasion, propose for the consideration of this association, some plan by which, through a vote of the people, a tax may be imposed sufficient to defray expenses necessary for the preservation of public health. At present I content myself with expressing a hope that resort to such a measure may be found unnecessary.

I trust our people will attentively read the address of our vice-president, and take earnestly to heart the lessons he shows experience has taught, and practically aid in executing the measures he so forcibly recommends. It would be idle for me to say more. I move the adoption of the report.

CYRUS BUSSEY, CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

then spoke as follows:

The address of Mr. Fenner so fully states the work that has been accomplished by our association that the people of this city can see the importance of sustaining it.

A very large portion of the money contributed by the people has been expended with unusual good judgment in permanent improvements. The large supply of water furnished by the pipe in front of the First and Fourth Districts, the engine and pumping machinery, the garbage boats, etc., are valuable assets in actual use, and through their use this city has enjoyed a degree of health

unparalleled in its history. Valuable lives have been spared, health and happiness enjoyed by hundreds, who but for our labor might be in their graves. The work pointed out to be done in the future is so important that every citizen in this city should become a sanitarian, and never cease their labors until the works recommended are completed and the city made so secure that it will cease to be referred to in connection with Havana as the home of yellow fever, as was done by Dr. Saunders, of Memphis, in a public meeting on the subject of sanitation. The attention of the whole country is directed to New Orleans in view of the largely increased business which we are to enjoy when the railroads now under construction are completed. In addition to the productions of the empire of Texas and the grain of the West, we are promised the wheat and other productions of California for shipment to Europe. The handling of these immense products, in addition to our large cotton crops, tributary to this city, will require a large increase in our population.

New Orleans should become one of the largest manufacturing cities in the country. Everything requisite for the production of many kinds of goods and farming implements can be procured here more cheaply than anywhere else. Capital and enterprise will develop these manufactures as soon as confidence in the good health of our city is established. Let us continue the work so successfully prosecuted for the past two years, and add each year larger permanent improvements until the sanitary condition of the city is made reasonably perfect. Money will be required to do this, but when have the people of New Orleans withheld their money when pleasure was promised. We support a large number of places of amusement and indulge extravagantly in useless luxuries. If necessary, let us economize in less important matters that we may contribute more liberally to the more important work of sanitation. If we do this we will confer health and happiness upon ourselves and cause New Orleans to be classed as a healthy city. This will invite new citizens and make all property of the city valuable. For these reasons I desire to unite in urging upon the public the very wise recommendations of Mr. Fenner. The general superintendent of the Mississippi and Tennessee Railway states their road has this year carried from Memphis to New Orleans, up to November 1, 95,344 bales of cotton in 1880, against only 38,879 bales for the same time

in 1879. These figures show the great value of a healthy season, and no doubt every department of the business of this city will show a like increase.

The attention of the merchants of Texas and other States has been called to the superior advantages which New Orleans offers as a market in which they can purchase all kinds of goods and sell their cotton and other products. The reports made each month by the Collector of the Port show a large increase in the imports of merchandise and a great increase in the exports. Should this trade be interrupted in consequence of an epidemic for a single season, the loss which would have to be borne by the people of this city would exceed a sum sufficient to sewer the city upon the most substantial plan and complete all the works recommended in the address to which we have listened, to say nothing of the lives which would be sacrificed and the distress which would follow.

The frequency of the visitations to this city of epidemic disease proves that so long as we continue in our present sanitary condition there can be no security. Contaminating influences will continue to increase as the population enlarges, unless provision is made to carry away dangerous impurities and purify the soil of the city, a terrible enemy will each summer threaten to devastate and destroy the people. No household, where there are young children, will feel secure. Therefore it behooves us to continue our organization and enlist, if possible, every inhabitant in the grand work of repelling the invasion of any deadly foe which may seek our shores. The plague has frequently depopulated the fairest cities of Europe and Asia, carrying off millions of people. Within two years that dread pestilence made its appearance in Russia. Yellow fever is said to be "first cousin to the plague," and may sometime seek to introduce that dread pestilence to our shores. A duty devolves upon the people of New Orleans, which I hope each citizen will appreciate and perform.

ALBERT BALDWIN, CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE,

then spoke as follows:

I desire to express the great pleasure and benefit I have derived from listening to the address of our worthy confrere. I second the motion for the adoption of the plan so ably placed before us, as the ~~GROUND~~ WORK of the efforts for reconstructing our sanitary condition which must be made by this association.

I can but add an expression of my earnest hope and belief that the people of this community will come forward promptly and liberally to aid us in carrying out designs, which have for their object the greatest good of every citizen.

With prompt action, it will be but a short time before New Orleans occupies a position second only to one of our American cities.